

# Community Service Crew Working on Holiday Display

## Media Contact:

Karen Cantou Grubbs

Indiana Department of Correction

Communications Chief

(317) 232-5780 (office)

(317) 903-7045 (cell)

[kgrubbs@doc.IN.gov](mailto:kgrubbs@doc.IN.gov)

Madison, Indiana - (November 30, 2007) - The "Correctly Speaking" Toastmasters Club sponsored a speech contest Friday evening at the Madison Correctional Facility. Four offenders competed for a trophy and the opportunity to present their winning speech to the North Vernon Kiwanis Club. Judges comprised of presidents of other local clubs from Indiana and Kentucky along with the past District Governor for Toastmasters International.

Assistant Superintendent Rodger McKinley opened the competition by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Then, saying it was a little warm in the auditorium, Mr. McKinley took off his suit jacket, turned around and hung it up. In doing so, the audience saw a stream of toilet tissue hanging from his pants. After the laughter calmed down, he explained that he wanted everyone, especially the contestants, to relax and have fun.

Debbie McKinley, a teacher from North Vernon, and member of the "Correctly Speaking" club, served as "Contest Master". She explained that Toastmasters International has a long history of speech contests. "Contests have several purposes," explained Mrs. McKinley. "Contests allow members the opportunity to speak publicly, club members in the audience benefit by learning from their peers, and it promotes the benefits of Toastmasters to the general public."

The order of the contestants was determined by a random drawing. The first speaker was Diane Spurgeon. In her speech entitled "Do It Afraid" she stated, "Do not let fear stop you from doing what you want to do." She spoke about Toastmasters and what the club has accomplished for its members.

The second contestant Rose Hankin's speech was titled "Speaking with Confidence". And that is just what she did! Ms. Hankins spoke confidently about speaking publicly. She told of the first time that she spoke publicly which was with the facility's speakers bureau that sends offenders out to speak with troubled youths. "I wasn't able to control my emotions," she stated, "I cried." The second time she went to speak with the speaker's bureau she had been in Toastmasters for four months. "I was able to control my emotions and speak with confidence," said Ms. Hankins. She shared that when she is released, that she hopes to continue speaking in schools.

The third contestant was Ruby Welch who presented "My Vision of Toastmasters." In her speech, Ms.

Welch shared the vision statement of Toastmasters International and what it means to her. She concluded her speech with these powerful words, "Everyone has heard the phrase: Life is like a bicycle; when you fall off you have to get right back on. Every time I speak in public it adds another spoke to the tire. The more spokes in a tire, the stronger the tire will be and it will carry you where you need to go."

The final contestant, Jacqueline Malone presented "Toastmasters is the Cure." She shared with the audience her hope to one day be someone that her son could look up to." The cure is the way in which you can change your life," Ms. Malone stated. "You have to minimize the hurt and maximize the help." Ms. Malone stated that through Toastmasters, she has learned the importance of not giving up.

The first place winner was Diane Spurgeon with Ruby Welch coming in second place.

"Toastmasters has added an entirely new component which enhances the programs at our facility," said Superintendent Jan Davis. "To have members of the outside community participating in an organization along side of our offenders, significantly aid to the success of their re-entry into society, not only law abiding citizens, but also as citizens who contribute to society."

Acting Commissioner Bruce Lemmon stated, "These 'back row enterprises' begun by Commissioner Donahue is an innovative way for offenders to join together with the outside community in programs that benefit everyone."

From a humble beginning in 1924 at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, Toastmasters International has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. The nonprofit organization now has nearly 220,000 members in 11,300 clubs in 90 countries, offering a proven - and enjoyable! - way to practice and hone communication and leadership skills.

Most Toastmasters meetings are comprised of approximately 20 people who meet weekly for an hour or two. Participants practice and learn skills by filling a meeting role, ranging from giving a prepared speech or an impromptu one to serving as timer, evaluator or grammarian.

The "Correctly Speaking" Toastmasters Club is open to the general public and meets every Thursday night at the Madison Correctional Facility at 5:30pm for one hour. If you are interested in more information or wish to visit prior to considering membership, contact Rodger McKinley at 812 265-6154 or [rmckinley@doc.in.gov](mailto:rmckinley@doc.in.gov).

**Additional Media Contact:**

Barry Nothstine  
Indiana State Prison  
(219.874.7256, ext. 2300)

**About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.